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**DOCUMENTS RELATING TO EARLY PROJECTED  
SWISS COLONIES IN THE VALLEY  
OF VIRGINIA, 1706-1709**

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ADDITIONS

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(See Jan. 1921 Magazine.)

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SPOTSWOOD'S OFFICIAL LETTERS, VOL. I., PP. 152-153. EX-  
TRACT FROM LETTER DATED MAY 8TH, 1712.

"The Baron de Graffenreid is come hither with a design to settle himself and sev'll [several] Swiss familys in the fforks of the Patomac, but when he expected to have held his Land there of her Majesty, he now finds claims made to it both by the Proprietors of Maryland and the Northern Neck. The Lord Baltimore's Agents claiming it in his behalf to the head springs of the South West Branch of Potomac, and my Lady Fairfax's Agent to the head springs of the Northwest branch, tho' by the Copys of the Grants which I have seen it appears to me that her Majesty has the right to that Tract of Land exclusive of both Proprietors".

This clearly shows that the Shenandoah river and Valley were in some measure known to Gov. Spotswood and the Eastern Virginia people as early as 1712.

C. E. K.

EXTRACT FROM THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF GRAFFENRIED.\*

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(Taken from the French copy, Manuscript C, printed in  
German-American Annals, Vol. XII, p. 71).

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It may be well to make a distinction between the two plans of the proposed colonies, the one for Virginia and the other for North Carolina.

The Proposition of the State of Berne to the Queen for a District of Land in Virginia.

For the project in Virginia we had the orders of their Excellencies, our noble Magistrates, to sound Her Majesty, the Queen of Great Britain, if she would be disposed to grant to the State of Berne a district of land for the proposed colony, with jurisdiction under certain conditions and without being dependent upon any Governor, but subject directly to the Queen or her council. But the crown declining to give up any of its authority and prerogatives, was unwilling to entertain that proposition, pretending that all would have to conform to the laws and regulations of the empire. But, as this was obnoxious to a sovereign state (namely Berne) to humiliate itself so much, nothing came of it.

The Queen grants us a definite district along the Potomac. Meanwhile, we, particularly my society and myself, through the recommenadion and by the assistance of Mr. Stanian, Extraordinary Envoy of Her Britannic Majesty, obtained from the Queen permission to take up land in Virginia above the Falls of the Potomac River under the same conditions as the other subjects of Her Majesty, with the object of dividing our colony for good reasons. But, as more hope of greater advantage was held out to us from Carolina and as its land was at a much better price; besides, as we had there some jurisdiction and particular privileges, we began there. But

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\* Translation. Contributed by Dr. Hinke.

the fatal result enabled us to see that we would have done better to begin in Virginia the more so because we would have been there in greater safety and would have been better supported by the Crown in case of danger ; but especially since in Virginia even the situation of the land, following the plans which I had made, was in no way inferior to that of Carolina, neither in beauty or quality of the land.